



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO **MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: October 18, 2002 REPORT NO. 02-242

ATTENTION: Natural Resources and Culture Committee
Agenda of October 23, 2002

SUBJECT: Otay Valley Regional Park Tree Planting Project

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The Otay Valley Regional Park is the result of a multi-jurisdictional planning effort in the Otay Valley by the County of San Diego, and the cities of Chula Vista and San Diego. In 1990, the jurisdictions entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) for the coordinated planning, acquisition and design for the OVRP. The JEPA established a three-member Policy Committee (PC) of elected officials and a 30-member Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).

The planning area for OVRP is located in the southern portion of San Diego County, four miles north of the United States/Mexico International Border. The Regional Park will extend about 11 miles from the southeastern edge of the salt ponds, through the Otay River Valley, to the land surrounding both Upper and Lower Otay Lakes.

Through the efforts of the PC, the CAC and joint staff from the jurisdictions, an OVRP Concept Plan was adopted by the three jurisdictions in 1997.

The Concept Plan proposes a boundary for the OVRP and, following the direction of the Policy Committee in the OVRP Goal Statement adopted in 1990, it:

- Provides for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and important cultural resources by identifying an open space core/preserve area,
- Identifies areas adjacent to the open space core for active and passive recreational development opportunities,

- Includes a trail system with staging areas, viewpoints and overlooks and connections to recreation areas and adjacent public lands and trails, and
- Envisions two interpretive centers for environmental and educational programs.

To date, the OVRP has been successful in receiving State Coastal Conservancy Grant monies for acquisition of over 500 acres, and currently joint staff is working on the acquisition of additional properties and the development of:

- S Natural Resource Management Plan
- S Non-Native Invasive Removal Program
- S Trails Master Plan
- S General Development Plan (concept plan) for the Otay Valley Athletic Complex which is proposing a recreation center, skate park facility and multi-sport fields on a 30 acre site located near Interstate 5 and Palm Avenue.

DISCUSSION

Through the efforts of numerous governmental agencies, schools, businesses, and residents, a tree planting project for the OVRP is scheduled for October 26, 2002, at 8:30 am. Trees to be planted were purchased through a grant from PG&E, Calpine and the County of San Diego. The 500 native trees consists of Coast Live Oak, Western Cottonwood, Western sycamore, Toyon (Christmas Berry) and Mexican Elderberry. They will be planted to improve both the Otay River Valley's natural habitat areas and the quality of life of the surrounding communities. Two different locations were selected, between I-5 and Hollister Street (Fenton Pond) and the west side of Beyer Boulevard, south side of the bridge.

As there is no parking space available at the Fenton Pond site, it is being requested that volunteers park in an open dirt parking area off Faivre Street, between Broadway and 27th Street. Shuttle vans will transport volunteers to the tree planting area.

Directions: Head south on Broadway, cross Main Street, turn right on Faivre into the dirt parking area on the left. A "Tree Planting" parking sign will be posted at the gate entrance.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Medina, Deputy Director
Park & Recreation Department

Approved: Bruce Herring
Deputy City Manager

HERRING/TM